GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5864
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
SURPLUS FOODGRAINS
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH;CHADA SURESH REDDY;RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrains produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the current stock of surplus foodgrains with the Government agencies in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the surplus foodgrains?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a): The total foodgrain produced during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was 2098.00 lakh tonnes, 1995.30 lakh tonnes and 2120.20 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b): A quantity of 170.02 lakh tonnes was surplus in the Central Pool, as on 1.4.2003.

(c): The steps taken by the Government to utilize the surplus foodgrains are Annexed.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5864 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 2.5.2 THE LOK SABHA.

Measures taken to increase offtake of foodgrains

(i) The scale of issue for Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya households under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been increased from @ 25 kg per household per month to @ 35 kg. per household per month;

(ii) Additional allocation are made for Welfare Institutions and Hostels at BPL CIPs @ 5% of the BPL allocation with effect from 1.4.2002;

(iii) Open market sales are allowed without quantitative restrictions at prices to be determined by the existing High Level Committee of the Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(iv) Rice, wheat and wheat products are allowed for export without quantitative restrictions, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs. (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time; WTO compatible subsidies to continue based on the recommendations of the High Level Committee of the FCI, as per the existing practice; and

(v) Entering into counter trade and/or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on a case-to-case basis.